



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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October 10, 1996

Mr. Chris Brown  
2 - 142 Osgoode Street  
Ottawa, Ontario  
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Dear Mr. Brown:

I am writing as a follow up to your contact with my office regarding your concerns with the Ministry of Health and the issue of environmental sensitivity.

Although environmental sensitivity is not a recognized diagnosis and environmental medicine is not recognized by the medical profession as a medical speciality, the Ministry of Health recognizes the importance of further support and research in this area. The government is not able to make decisions about environmental hypersensitivity before further work with the Ontario Medical Association and others in the medical profession is carried out.

The Ministry has supported many initiatives to build on information and knowledge such as:

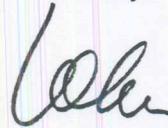
- Supporting a conference sponsored by the Allergy and Environmental Health Association;
- Provides annual funding of \$300,000 for a research team at the University of Toronto;

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- A joint clinical research initiative is now underway with the newly established Environmental Illness Clinic at Women's College Hospital. The clinic opened in March 1996. The Ministry is providing \$200,000 to fund the clinic. The clinic provides assessment and referral for patients, and an opportunity to participate in studies of diagnosis and treatment methods;
- A commitment to establish a group to compile and distribute information about conditions that are not well understood such as environmental sensitivities and chronic fatigue syndrome;
- The Environmental Illness Clinic has forwarded a proposal to enhance its information dissemination activities and to establish a forum to identify and prioritize issues for concrete action strategies. The Ministry is currently reviewing this proposal;
- The new Whitby Psychiatric Hospital includes space for patient assessments that has been specially designed to be free of substances that cause problems for people with sensitivities.

I would like to re-iterate to you that the Ministry of Health takes this issue seriously and is committed to work to further the understanding of environmental sensitivity.

Sincerely,



John Baird, MPP  
Nepean